

such scheming or dishonest practices in connection with the awarding of prizes at any fair in this country. A show that countenances that kind of thing or where judges arrange before hand for a money consideration, who shall get the prize is of no value to the country. In the particular department to which our attention has been called, people have wondered how it was that some of the inferior exhibits won so many prizes. But knowing how the judges have manipulated matters the whole thing is quite plain. Let there then be a thorough investigation of this matter and a complete exposure of the guilty parties. Above all things let honest and capable men be selected for judges and ostracise every individual no matter how capable he may be as a judge who countenances anything along the lines we have indicated.

The Ottawa Fair

The fourteenth Annual Exhibition of the Central Canada Exhibition Association was held at Ottawa, last week, and so far as attendance, etc., are concerned must be considered a success. More favorable weather prevailed this year, while the visit of their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall, attracted a large number of visitors to the capital, many of whom took advantage of the opportunity to visit the Central Fair. From a financial point of view the fair will likely show up considerably better than either Toronto or London in that the receipts will exceed the expenditures. This is all the more gratifying inasmuch as the management of the Central Fair, owing to unfavorable weather have had to face a balance on the wrong side for several years back.

In regard to the show itself, perhaps not as much can be said. While the live stock shown was generally of good quality there was very little competition in most of the classes and the splendid stables on the grounds had in them fewer animals than usual. There are several reasons for this. The Pan-American drew many of the best exhibits, while many of the Quebec breeders went to the fair at Quebec city instead, where the prizes offered in many cases were larger than at Ottawa. The prize list at Ottawa this year was lowered considerably from that of a year ago, and made it hardly worth while for breeders from a distance to send their exhibits. Then again the railway facilities at Ottawa are not of the best. From the C. P. R. to the grounds live stock have to be driven a long distance over a narrow and dangerous road. While on the G. T. R. and Canada Atlantic, higher rates were charged than has been the case for several years back. All these circumstances conspired to lessen materially the show of live stock, which, with the exception of Avy-shires and draught horses in which there was a lot of local competition, was very much below other

years. This is rather unfortunate, as the Ottawa Fair people otherwise put up a good show and provide excellent accommodation for both exhibitors and their stock. Breeders are always loud in their praises of the treatment received at

Ottawa and it is hoped that another year both as regards railway facilities, etc., circumstances will be more favorable for inducing a much larger exhibit. A full report of the fair will appear in next week's issue.

Keep More Hogs

Trend of Market for Three Years—The Outlook in England

We don't know whether the average Canadian farmer, generally speaking, is inclined to pessimism or not, but it would seem that he is very much inclined that way in regard to the bacon hog trade. He has had unprecedentedly large prices for his hogs during the past year, and still he is not increasing his supplies at a very rapid rate. For several months back prices for select bacon hogs have ruled above the \$7.00 per cwt. mark, and have frequently reached \$7.50, and still the farmer hesitates to increase his output of hogs, lest there should be a drop in prices. When asked his reasons for not doing so his reply is that these high prices cannot last and that there will soon be a change when values will be at rock bottom again, with no profit in the business for the producer. Several farmers whom we have recently asked their reasons for not going more extensively into the raising of hogs have given the one excuse: "These high prices cannot last long and there will be a drop in prices before long."

But let us see what the grounds are for coming to this conclusion. In our opinion they are based altogether on precedent. True, it is, that there are always lower prices during the last two or three months of the year than at any other time. But even if this is followed up closely it will be found that of late years, the drop in prices in the fall has not been nearly so large as it formerly was. In fact signs are not wanting to show that, the periods of low prices for bacon hogs are gradually getting less and approaching to more uniformity all the year round. September is now well over, and the market is still firm with steady prices.

A comparison of the prices paid on the Toronto market during the past few years may not be amiss in this connection. The figures we give are taken from the Market Review, published every week in The Farming World. During the fall of 1898, that is from Sept. 1st to the end of December, the highest price paid for select bacon hogs was \$4.75 per cwt. and the lowest \$4.12½ per cwt., the average being something like \$4.37½ per cwt. About these same figures were maintained till June 1st, 1899, when prices advanced to \$5.00, and remained at this figure till September. From Sept. 1st to the end of December, 1899, the highest price paid was \$5 per cwt. and the low-

est \$4, the average being about \$4.50 for September and October, and \$4.25 per cwt. for November and December. Prices averaged about \$4.50 during January and February, 1900, and about March 1st, advanced to \$5.37½ and April 1st to \$6 per cwt. The average from that date to Sept. 1st, being about \$6.37½. Prices averaged \$6.25 during Sept. and Oct. 1900. On Oct. 30, prices dropped to \$5.75; on Nov. 6 and 13 to \$4.75, only to advance again on Nov. 20 to \$5 per cwt. During the balance of November and December, the average was about \$5.75. During the first six months of 1901, prices for select bacon hogs averaged about \$6.50, and since then considerably over \$7.00 per cwt.

These figures show the trend of the bacon hog market during the past three years, and if they prove anything at all it is that the period for low prices in the fall of the year has been gradually getting smaller. There were only two weeks last fall when prices were below \$5.00 per cwt. and then they were not below the profit line being \$4.75 per cwt. So far as this year's trade is concerned, there is no good reason for believing that prices will drop below the profit line. No one expects that present exceptionally high values will be maintained till the first of the year. But these high prices can afford to take a pretty big drop and then yield a good profit to the producer. In our opinion there is no surer market in connection with any farm products than that of hogs and it is really surprising why so many farmers hesitate about engaging in the business on a larger scale.

The past three years have wrought wonderful changes in the Canadian bacon trade. The demand for Canadian bacon has increased in Great Britain at a most rapid rate and our packers are not able to supply enough of the right quality for this trade. Read the testimony of Prof. Robertson and Live Stock Commissioner Hodson, as given in our annual autumn number. It will be remembered that these gentlemen visit Great Britain this season in the interests of Canadian Agriculture. Speaking of the Canadian bacon trade, Prof. Robertson says:

"The growth in this one department of our agricultural trade has been marvellous, and still not so marvellous in the light of the growth of the whole trade in our products. In 1890 the value of the