

The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

"Persevere and
Succeed."

Established
1866

Vol. XLIV.

REGISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COPYRIGHT ACT OF 1976.
LONDON, ONTARIO, OCTOBER 14, 1909

No. 890

EDITORIAL.

Judging from observation and report, the present is a record year in silo construction in Ontario.

Living in a good district, why not enhance its value by talking it up at home and abroad, and in correspondence?

The Dereham and West Oxford (Ont.) Farmers' Mutual Fire Insurance Company allow a discount of ten per cent. on all payments for insurance on buildings that are properly equipped with lightning-rods. This is as it ought to be.

If animals could be produced with unfailing regularity and precision, like castings, breeding would lose much of its charm. It is the striving worthily towards an unattainable standard of perfection that gives the art more than half its zest.

The Development Bill recently introduced in the British Parliament disclosed an enlarged conception of the function and work of the Government, far beyond the old idea of national defence and preserving internal order. It embraces forestry, the reclamation of waste lands, the improvement of rural transport, construction of harbors and canals, improvement of fisheries, and the promotion of scientific and economic research and education in agriculture and rural industries—all of which is more wholesome and remunerative, from a national viewpoint, than the spectacular trappings of militarism or the atrocities of war.

Unremitting toil cramps and wearies the muscle of a man, indurates the fibre of his being, narrows his outlook, contracts his views, and renders him unresponsive to sublime thoughts and new ideas. Scientists tell us that even metal utensils require rest to insure greatest durability. Much more do muscular fibre and brain cells. We all need to get away from our work occasionally, and the more complete the change, the greater the benefit. Whether one enjoys his visit particularly or not, he comes back invigorated, refreshed, and with a new courage for his work. Those who have been taking a holiday this summer have found that out. The man who gives himself vacation now and then lives longer, lives better, and perceives, as no one else can, the blessings with which he is surrounded. For, the best part of a journey is coming home.

Co-operation is nearly always born of distress. When, for instance, marketing conditions reach the deep mire of despair, those who are producing a certain line of farm products are liable to get their heads together and seek improvement through co-operation. It was conspicuously so with the apple-growers of Southern Ontario, and our latest example is the Scotland Onion-growers' and Farmers' Co-operative Association, of Brant Co. Last year, when, with a bumper crop in this leading onion-producing district, the price was forced down below the cost of production, assisted, possibly, by manipulation of the trade, the producers decided to unite for the disposal of their crop. The result was an organization representing a considerable proportion of the heaviest producers, with business arrangements for the shipping, selling and storing of onions. It is believed by the members that their association has already had the effect of raising net prices to the growers, both in and out of the organization, by ten or fifteen cents a bushel. Success to this latest Canadian line of co-operation.

Judges and Judging.

The fall fairs of the year being nearly all events of the past, and the work of the judges subjected to the usual amount of criticism or commendation, it may be worth while, in the light of the results, to consider the methods of selection of judges with a view to the greatest good to exhibitors, and in the interest of the improvement of the various classes of live stock. The breed societies in Canada have for years submitted to fair boards a list of names of men considered competent to officiate as judges, from which selections are supposed to be made. While this would appear to be a good system, there is reason to doubt whether the breed societies have been sufficiently careful in the filling of their lists with a view to recommendation of capable men, made so by experience, training, or a knowledge of desirable or approved types. On the other hand, fair boards, in some cases, have not confined themselves to the submitted lists for their selections, in some instances, it is intimated, making their appointments on the suggestion or recommendation of prominent prospective exhibitors or their agents; while in other instances judges appointed by the Department of Agriculture have been accepted—some quite capable, others not so.

While by any of these methods of selection the securing of absolute satisfaction to all exhibitors is practically impossible, the wisdom of the observance of care in the winnowing of the lists by breed societies, and of discrimination on the part of fair boards in making appointments to avoid being unduly influenced by interested parties, is obvious.

While it may appear reasonable to claim that when a judge has given general satisfaction at a fair once, it is good policy to continue his services from year to year, on the supposition that he knows the best types, and will educate the people along such lines, it has, we believe, been found in practice that not a few exhibitors have, without impugning the honesty or fairness of the judge, lost confidence in his competency or his theories, and desire a change. So clearly has this been evident that the general opinion is, we believe, that, as a rule, a judge had better not officiate two years in succession at the same fair, since it is almost inevitable that some exhibitors feel that they have not received their due at his hands, and will hesitate or decline to compete, and thus detract from the interest of the show. On the other hand, a sensitive judge will prefer not to appear too often on the same ground, as his personal acquaintance with exhibitors is liable to cause complications and engender jealousies which may lead to uncharitable suggestions.

While we have consistently advocated the one-judge system, where a competent arbiter is chosen, as having fewer disadvantages than a committee of any number, we can appreciate the difficulty when a man not large enough for the place has been appointed, and in such case can sympathize with the unfortunate exhibitor and the fair board as well. But it is questionable wisdom or propriety for an exhibitor, knowing beforehand who is to be the judge, to protest his appointment when he has arrived on the ground for his work, as such action makes things unpleasant for all parties, and especially the judge. Even the appointment of a colleague to operate with him is an acknowledgment of either want or confidence in his character or his efficiency. And a sensitive judge, who has confidence in his own ability, would prefer to retire, rather than be placed in such a position. An invited guest is entitled to the protection of his host. And the exhibitor, coming to a show, knowing who is to be the judge, makes a mistake in protesting either before

or after his work is done, since the exhibitor is quite as liable to be prejudiced in favor of his own animals as the judge is against them, and the complaints of the former are as liable to be regarded as evidences of the weakness of his exhibit as of inefficiency of the judge.

Horticulturists' and Beekeepers' Week at Toronto.

Fruit, flowers, vegetables and honey will be exhibited on a large scale, of a high degree of quality, and most attractively staged, at the sixth annual Ontario Horticultural Exhibition, St. Lawrence Arena, Toronto, Ont., Nov. 9th to 13th. Concurrently will be held the annual conventions of four Provincial associations, representing the various classes of exhibitors. The Fruit-growers' Association of Ontario will hold its fiftieth annual meeting on Wednesday and Thursday, Nov. 10th and 11th. This is a convention that every fruit-grower in the Province would find it advantageous to attend. The programme is always practical, as reference to the full reports published in "The Farmer's Advocate" in previous years will show. Additional benefits are the privilege of meeting so many other men engaged in the same business, and the power of union in working for legislative enactments and transportation rights. Another thoroughly practical organization is the Ontario Vegetable-growers' Association, which will hold a one-day meeting on November 11th. On Tuesday and Wednesday, Nov. 9th and 10th, the Ontario Horticultural Association, representing the amateur and professional floral interests, and comprising many local bodies in the leading urban centers of the Province, will hold forth with its convention, while the three-day annual convention of the Ontario Beekeepers' Association will be held in the York County Council Chambers, 57 Adelaide St., East, on November 10th, 11th and 12th. It is thus apparent that a person interested in any of these cognate branches cannot avail himself of the cheap excursion rates to the Queen City, that will doubtless be effective during the second week of November, without much profit and pleasure, unless he wilfully neglects the feast of knowledge and delectation spread for his benefit.

A deficiency of the event in former years has been the comparatively meager attendance from rural districts. A more liberal advertising policy on the part of the directors bids fair to repair that lack this year, and the forthcoming fixture should rank easily as the best yet. Entries for the show close on November 2nd. The prize-list is now out, and fruit-growers, vegetable-growers, florists and apiarists who have creditable specimens to exhibit, who have any idea at all how to prepare them, and who wish to educate themselves in the worthy art of exhibition, should communicate at once with the Secretary, P. W. Hodgetts, Parliament Buildings, Toronto, Ont. Everything points to a successful issue. Exhibit if possible, attend anyway.

Gold Cheap: Other Products Dear.

Everyone who buys and sells realizes that prices of commodities have for years been steadily advancing. This fact accounts for much of the unrest that exists among wage-earners. Wages have increased, but at a slower rate than the value of necessities for the home. In consequence, they are not so well off as before, though getting more money.

Wallace's Farmer, in an instructive article, discusses this subject, and puts forth what we believe is the true reason for the universal rise in prices. Reference to the record kept by the U. S. Bureau of Labor of the prices of two hundred and