

The Farming World

For Farmers and Stockmen

Vol. XX

FEBRUARY 25th, 1902.

No. 8

Improvement of Fall Fairs.

ALARGE amount of space in this week's issue is devoted to a report of the annual meeting of the Canadian Fairs Association, held on Wednesday and Thursday last in this city. The gathering was a most notable one, not merely because of the large crowds who attended, but that a more aggressive policy was decided upon which gives promise of instilling into our agricultural societies such life and vigor as will make them of greater interest and of greater value to the agriculture of the Province. It cannot be denied that many of these societies have got into ruts and have managed their shows in such a way as not only to do no good to the community but in many cases to do positive injury in lowering the moral tone in the district by pandering to that which is low and debasing in their special attractions. That a new era has set in and that higher ideals are likely to prevail in the methods of conducting these fairs everyone interested in the welfare of this country will be glad to learn. We wish the new movement every success, and believe that if it is taken hold of in the right spirit by every society in the Province it will work nothing less than a revolution in the interest and in the educational value of our fall fairs.

The future development of this new policy centres largely around the appointment of a superintendent or head to the agricultural societies. To work out any reform or any improvement in the organizations without a central head, would be practically impossible, and the convention did wisely in commending to the Minister of Agriculture that such an officer be appointed. Further wisdom was shown in asking that Mr. G. C. Creelman be appointed to the position. Mr. Creelman is energetic and resourceful, and we believe, in so far as his time will permit, will do most effective work in reorganizing the fairs and placing them in a position to do more effective work for Canadian agriculture. But the superintendent cannot do everything. He must have the active cooperation and assistance of every society and of every officer of these societies. Given these, and the success of this new movement toward making our fall fairs more educational and beneficial is assured. Let there be then the heartiest cooperation between each society and the superintendent in working out this new policy towards higher and better agriculture.

The Canadian Fairs' Association has been meeting regularly in this

city for a dozen years or more, but it has only been within the past year or two that the general public or even the local societies have taken any special interest in its deliberations. What has wrought this change? Why was there so much interest shown last week in the proceedings and such a large and representative gathering of fair representatives from all parts of the province present? We do not like to single out any one person above his fellows in connection with any undertaking; but in this instance justice can only be done by so doing. The one individual more than all others responsible for this new interest, this change of sentiment and this new movement that has culminated in a recommendation for a superintendent, and in action being taken that means better value and better returns from our agricultural fairs, is Mr. F. W. Hodson, Dominion Live Stock Commissioner. Mr. Hodson, took up the question of the betterment of our fairs, a couple years ago, in his fearless and practical way, and the result has been an interest and desire on the part of the agricultural societies to do better than ever dreamed of a year or two ago.

As to the meeting itself we might add that while the addresses delivered were good and full of valuable suggestions for the guidance of fair managers, the discussions were rather disappointing. There was no lack of persons to take up discussions. In fact the chairman had some difficulty in deciding who had the floor. But there was too much of a tendency to discuss matters from one's own narrow point of view and to air grievances that were purely of local character and not applicable to the whole province. For this reason the meeting was not as valuable as it might have been from an educational point of view. Often more and better work could be done in a good strong committee. However, the convention was of value and we trust will have a wholesome effect in pushing forward the new movement for educational rather than frivolous and demoralizing attractions at fairs.

While nearly all the delegates present at the recent meeting of the Fair's Association are regular readers of THE FARMING WORLD, still there may be others who are interested in the accompanying report of the meeting. If any present subscriber will furnish the names and addresses of one or more of these interested we shall be pleased to send free sample copies.

Essentials for Sheep Raising.

The above formed the title of a most instructive and practical address by A. W. Smith, Maple Lodge, Ont., before the live stock judging class at the Agricultural College last month.

The first thing to be considered was the selection of the flock. To be successful, one must select the right type of the breed that suits his tastes best. In selecting a ram, look for one with compactness, not too long in the coupling, strong back, standing well up on his legs, carrying himself with a good deal of boldness and is sprightly and alert. In selecting the ewe nearly the opposite characteristic should be looked for. There should be more length, more sparing in the ribs, a good heart, gentle, of good constitution, bright, intelligent head, and bright eye and ear.

If the ewes are short in form it would be advisable to use a ram with longer range. A common fault in breeding, was to use on a flock of ewes, strong in front, but with poor hind quarters, a ram strong behind but weak in front. This was a serious mistake. On such ewes use a ram with good front and hind quarters.

In the management of sheep, nothing paid better than kind treatment. The sheep is naturally a very timid animal, and if badly or roughly treated would detract very much from the profits in the business. As a rule, sheep were more hardly treated than any other animal on the farm.

Sheep should be kept away from other animals, and in a clean, dry pen. For the average flock, \$100 would be sufficient to build a suitable pen. It need not necessarily be very warm, but there should be no drafts. Less labor was required in looking after sheep than any other animal. Too much bedding for sheep was not good, but the pen should be cleaned out often so as to keep it dry.

Special attention should be paid to dipping. The red louse and the tick, the common pests on sheep in Canada, were easily destroyed by dipping. Sheep should be dipped twice a year. They should be dipped in the spring, about ten days after lambing, and everything should be dipped. In the fall, before winter sets in, dip again. If the weather is too cold pour the dip over the sheep. Proper dipping would save grain in feeding and dollars on the flock.

In feeding sheep, he advised a variety of green feed during the summer. This could be provided at little expense. It had been his practice to sow rape for fall