

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL
IN THE DOMINION.

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quest than those now at work under the chairmanship of Dr. Jas. W. Robertson. After a tour of educational centers in Great Britain, the Commission visited Germany, Belgium, Denmark, Switzerland and France, and have lately been completing their inquiries in Britain, touching such points as Sheffield, Eng., and Belfast and other places in Ireland. Judging from observations made by the Commissioners appearing in Old Country periodicals, perhaps the most remarkable of all the institutions visited was the Department of Applied Science at the University of Sheffield, in which practical instructions connected with the steel trade are given. Not even Germany possesses such an admirable institution.

After ample opportunities of seeing what advanced European countries are doing, one gratifying revelation has been pressed home vividly upon the minds of the Commission, viz., that many English people do not appreciate their own country at anything like its full value. Indeed, self-depreciation has come to be a sort of national failing. It is a common enough remark in America that England is self-satisfied and slow, but an actual study of the situation there is usually an eye-opener, giving impressions of substantial advancement, marked attention to quality, and the phenomenal solidity of her trade. Britain is not on the down grade, but never more awake and progressive. In the judgment of Dr. Robertson, Britain has reason to be gratified at the good things she possesses in education and the marvelous progress made during the past ten years. The Commission were also able to bear strong testimony at one of their public receptions to the distinguished capability of the representatives of the British Foreign and Colonial Offices in the different countries visited. In one particular, at least, the example of Germany deserved to be seriously heeded, and that is in the very high public respect in which the teaching profession is held.

Grow in Knowledge by Seeing the Fall Exhibitions.

The grain harvest has all been safely stored in the barns in most sections of Canada, and in many districts a large proportion of the threshing has been done. The early after-harvest stirring of the soil has been attended to, and the farmer, although always busy, finds himself somewhat relieved. Nothing is suffering, and nothing imperatively demands immediate attention. He can take a day off if he wishes. It is, therefore, very opportune that our fall fairs and larger exhibitions are held at this time, when those who should be most interested in the displays made can find time to spend a few days enjoying the recreation which a large show affords. A visit to the exhibition is a fitting holiday to celebrate the garnering in of another harvest. Those who are engaged in agricultural operations have a very busy season from the time the first seed is committed to old Mother Earth in the spring, until the last sheaf has been stowed away under the roof of the barn. This done, the industrious owner is deserving of a holiday, and the question in mind is, how can the short time—for, of necessity, the holiday must be short—be spent to best advantage? Where can he who is deeply interested in scientific, progressive agriculture employ his few days of recreation with greatest benefit to himself—days which will be remembered in after life, both because of the pleasure connected with them, and also because of the new ideas and broader education and view of life obtained?

There is little doubt but that the foregoing question is a very pertinent one in the minds of nearly every person residing in rural communities, and in all probability the greater number who are now considering this question will in the end decide to spend their vacation at one or other of the large fall exhibitions. This is a very wise decision, and if the most is made of the time spent at the show, no one will regret choosing this as a means of holiday recreation.

But, after the strenuous hustle and bustle of the busy summer season, there is a tendency on the part of the person who is thrust all at once into the midst of the whirl and turmoil of the cosmopolitan mass of sightseers at these shows, all eager to drown their thoughts of labor in the galaxy and mystifying beauty of special attractions, and wishing only to forget for the time being the hum-drum monotony of their every-day life, to do as they do, and see only the fringe of the exhibition, after all, allowing themselves to be pleased with frivolous and shallow amusements only, and not giving a due amount of the time at their disposal to a serious educative study of the various departments from which something of real, lasting value can be learned. It is not the writer's purpose to decry the light and entertaining amusements which are always to be found on the grounds of the larger exhibitions. Innocent, clean, elevating pleasure should always be encouraged, but it should never exclude the almost innumerable, really educative features to be found at these shows. It is possible for one to get just as much pleasure even for the immediate time in which he is in contact with the source of pleasure out of something which proves to be an education valuable in after life, as it is for him to experience some "thriller," the real pleasure of which lasts only for an instant.

It is important, then, when attending a great exhibition, that the visitor select those departments which will give him some information that will be of use to him in future, and spend the greater part of the time at his disposal in studying these exhibits. See everything of value at the fair. Select the features from which you will derive the greatest amount of edification, and give these features extra attention.

The question now arises in the mind of the agriculturist and stockman, which is the most valuable to me, stock exhibits or other features? Undoubtedly, the most knowledge of value to such a person in his business can be obtained from studying the stock and agricultural exhibits. Follow the indexing closely. In this way a good opportunity is afforded of getting the most approved types of live stock firmly fixed in the mind. Various breeds are out, and the live stock student has

ample opportunity to weigh each up against another, and decide in his own mind which breed and type is most in favor, and, consequently, which it would likely be the most profitable for him to breed. Studying these animals in this way will serve as an incentive, and the man who has applied himself will return to his home determined to improve his stock. Who can say that showing agricultural products and live stock is no good to our agriculture? It is one of the events of the year which, when the farmer is weary after a hard summer's toil which mayhap has not been too well rewarded by the results of the harvest, fills the rural people with hope, and cheers them on by establishing in their minds a better feeling toward their chosen calling.

The exhibit of agricultural products is not all that commands interest. The various commercial articles in process of manufacture should prove of great interest, as also should art, machinery of all kinds; in fact, everything of commercial value should receive attention, as should also the special music and all the various features put on for the amusement of the people. These all carry with them a certain amount of education. One cannot see a new article in process of construction without gaining in knowledge. It is knowledge and wide experience that count in the affairs of life, and it is by experience that knowledge is most surely attained. As before stated, see all the show that is worthy of your time, but select those features that hold in them something of real value which will not be forgotten as soon as out of sight, but will remain as a goad to push you on to better things. It is quite possible to spend much time at the fair and see very little. Apply yourself to sightseeing as you do to work. Take time to see well what you see, and leave the fair grounds with a broader view of your calling and life in general than you ever had before.

The Man and the Farm.

Farming is, fortunately for the world, one of those occupations the satisfactions of which do not depend on the amount of money to be made in a year. There is, first, the satisfaction which comes from the ownership of a tract of land. It is the most stable of investments, and a safeguard against numberless anxieties. If, to the skill of the agriculturist, the farmer adds the taste of an artist, he may find a joy in so directing the forces of nature along the lines of beauty as to make of his farmstead and fields a series of pictures more alluring than can be found in any gallery. Not a few men have found in this indulgence of the art instinct an enjoyment which the millionaire might covet. Broad fields are better nurseries for high thought than contracted city offices. Nature-study uplifts the man as can no other study save that of Divinity. Opportunities for scientific investigation offer themselves in every soil, plant, insect and type of animal life to be found on the land. The application of the results of such investigation to the practical work of the farm—joining Science with Labor—dignifies the work, while multiplying its rewards. The farmer it is, of all men, who can best afford to put aside all thought of mere money-getting, and devote himself to large living. The money-getting instinct is, as a rule, belittling, and this belittlement the farmer can, the easiest of all, escape. The size of the farm does not limit the growth of the man. The man who, on eighty acres, gives himself to high thought and purposes, and large living, will easily outrank, in intellectual power and social influence, the mere money-seeker on a farm many times larger. It isn't the size of the farm, but the quality of the farmer's manhood, which determines his place in the community.—(C. R. Barns, Extension Division, Minn. College of Agriculture.

One of the difficulties with agriculture is that every little while a new prophet arises with a gospel heralded as the salvation of the industry, making for it exaggerated claims which, when they fail to pan out according to the extravagant expectations raised, discount other progressive ideas in the estimation of conservative men. Moderation in advocacy generally wins in the end, and when it fails, does not so sadly disappoint.