

FARMER'S ADVOCATE

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THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE

Home Magazine.

WILLIAM WELD, Editor and Proprietor

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Published in the Dominion.

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Exhibitions.

We have attended exhibitions of one kind or another every year for the past half century. We have seen some of the largest that have been held, both in Europe and America; and we have heard some great orators, preachers and scholars. Grand, imposing and instructive as they all may be, we look on the properly conducted township agricultural exhibition of Canada as equal in power to any preacher, orator or great exhibition as a teacher. They have improved the farmers of Canada to a greater extent than it is possible to improve them in any other manner by so small an expenditure of time or money. If a township exhibition is properly conducted, nearly all the farmer's family attend it. The day is made a grand, social, instructive holiday for all. Of course the exhibitors have work to do, but that work is done with pleasure. Recreation and amusement are necessary to the proper development of the mind. The assembling together of the finest products of nature, aided by the best practical skill of man—to see this assemblage—to notice the admiration of the child in its mother's arms, or the tiny toddler by her side calling its mother's attention to some fruit or flower that it had never seen at home—what preacher or schoolmaster can equal such a lesson? When we consider that these great instructors and elevators are now placed within the easy reach of every child in the land, do you not think we should be taking a backward step to try to suppress them? It is our opinion that more

real good is done by the small Government expenditure for the maintenance of these township exhibitions than by any other public money expended in this Dominion.

Every township exhibition may not be a success. Some townships may be sparsely settled; the exhibitions in others may have been improperly managed. Those that are most successful are those that are conducted most honorably. We have known officers who have appointed judges to suit their own purposes. Sometimes a political party or some private sect desires to show favors either by the election of officers, appointment of judges or awarding of prizes. Such steps have invariably resulted to the injury, and sometimes to the destruction of an exhibition. To have a successful exhibition you must begin at the election of your officers. In the first place select a good, active Secretary. If you have a good one and one that has given satisfaction, by all means retain him; but strive to elect at least one-quarter of the directors from those that have not yet held office and to choose them from that party or sect that is not as fully represented as it should be. By all means avoid having your exhibition directors in the form of a "ring." If your population is divided by sect or party, try to unite it by acting fairly and justly to all; rather concede a point than endeavor to gain one, except it is for the sole benefit of your society in an agricultural point of view.

When attending the Delaware Township Exhibition spoken of in our last issue, one of the oldest men in the township told us his advice to his sons was this:

"NEVER SHOW HOG at an exhibition." Well, this remark might well be considered by every exhibitor and every officeholder. We have known officers of very inferior quality crave, ask and use the influence of their friends to keep them there, even when their actions were averse to the interests of the association to which they belonged. They seem to think that it would be a disgrace to be beaten, and they lack the discernment to see that they would gain honor, benefit themselves and the society by tendering their resignation. They might retire for a year or two, and then accept office again.

The appointment of judges is one of the most important duties that directors are called on to perform. Judges in general deserve more thanks for their patience and time than we are apt to accord to them. Their work is often arduous and difficult; sometimes an erroneous decision will be made; some defect will be unobserved at the time, and grumblers and complainers will exist as long as the sun shines, so you cannot expect to please all. In your selection of judges be sure and avoid any man against whom the slightest insinuation has ever been thrown out about his having favored some friend in awards given by him. We have known judges who have given awards against their

own knowledge of right and wrong. Such men you must not select if you wish the permanent success of your exhibition, or even your own reputation. If any person in your township is not favorable to your agricultural exhibition, and does not come forward actively to aid it, we would strongly advise you to reject such a person for any other office in your township or out of it.

We write this article to prevent, if possible, the contemplated destruction of township exhibitions. We regret that there are some large land holders and small-minded men in each township who do not aid these most useful agricultural schools as much as they should, as these exhibitions tend to increase the value of these large holdings. We would even suggest that township councils might have the power of aiding the exhibitions from the township moneys.

Those who are opposed to township exhibitions have an opportunity of expressing their views in our columns. We wish to encourage open and free discussion on all subjects of agricultural interest.

Sheep in Winter.

Two extremes should be avoided in the matter of shelters. One may be insufficient, while the other may be so close as to be unhealthy. The majority of mistakes are with those who shelter insufficiently. In such instances, more food is consumed than would otherwise be required, and no corresponding benefits accrue. The shelters on the sheep farm should be made to increase in size as rapidly as the flock multiplies its numbers.

The water supply should be carefully looked to. A flock of given number will drink more water in winter than will be needed when on pasture. If such an arrangement can be economically secured, access to water twice a day is better than but once. This for two reasons—first, the more timid animals, which are likely to be held back in the morning by their stronger fellows, have a chance when the latter are not so eager; and secondly, all danger from over-drinking of cold water is obviated. Use of snow in lieu of water should be forced upon the flock only under the extremest necessity. Stock will live under such circumstances, but satisfactory thrift will not be secured.

Ewes in lamb should, as far as practicable, be fed and sheltered separately from the non-breeding animals, as the crowding and more rapid movements of the latter are apt to result injuriously, while such separation makes more convenient certain little attentions to which breeding ewes are entitled as the yearning season approaches, and which may be profitably accorded to them.—[Ex.

We return our thanks to the hundreds of subscribers who have kindly shown their papers to others, and have sent in one or more new subscribers. Those who have not exerted themselves and have not sent in a new subscriber, we would particularly request to try to send one during this month. If we have, as you admit, boldly and fearlessly advocated your interests, you might at least try to strengthen our elbow to do more. There are thousands of readers of this journal who might with but little exertion aid the agricultural paper that has aided them. Let us see that you are a real friend to agriculture by sending in one or more new names during the coming month. We are addressing this to each one personally.