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EDITORIAL.

SHOWS AND SHOWING.

Competitive exhibitions, it will be generally acknowledged, have played an important part, in this, as in other countries, in stimulating to improvement in live stock and many other products of the farm. Comparison in close quarters is the surest means of observing and discriminating between the relative merits of two or more animals or articles. A competent judge has not infrequently changed his opinion of the proper placing of nearly equal entries when brought into closer contact, and an experienced exhibitor is often surprised when an animal he fancied invincible at home is brought side by side with one he had considered inferior to his when seen in its own stable, or even in its stall at a show. A fairly good judge may lack to some extent the faculty of carrying in his mind relative proportions and qualities of bone and hair and handling, which, when brought into proximity with that of another animal, is readily discerned and given due weight and place in arriving at a decision. Competition excites to effort to excel, and rivalry stimulates to enterprise in securing, producing and preparing superior specimens. And these, if judiciously treated and mated, are the most likely to reproduce excellence. These are truisms which will be generally accepted, and the widely-extended improvement in live stock of all classes in this comparatively new country is largely the result, directly or indirectly, of the competitive show system, and it speaks well for the system, which, fortunately, grows in favor, not only with exhibitors, but with the people generally, its educational value and its influence for good being extended as the years go by.

While all farmers or all artisans may not be in a position or have the desire to enter the field of public competition with their products, most of those who attend the fairs are likely to carry home some ideas new to them, which, to some extent, they can put to profitable use. And, fortunately, fresh recruits are constantly coming forward, to fill the places in the showyard of those retired by age or other reason, and to extend the influence of example in a good cause. Those entering the field as beginners need not be discouraged by failure to get high up in the prize-list at first, or even to get into it, as many who have ultimately been among the most successful have had to endure defeat repeatedly in their early experience; but the spirit which determines to excel profits by early defeats and mistakes, making even those stepping-stones to victory. All things must have a beginning, and in the field of stock-breeding and showing the man of moderate means should be content, metaphorically, to creep before he can walk, and walk before he runs. In the Old Country, which is the home of most of the breeds of pure-bred stock we have, and the model we strive to copy in many things, including her show system, tenant farmers compete with wealthy land-owners, and even with Royalty, and are content to prepare a single animal or a few for exhibition, and gratified to get any place in the prize-list or even a commended card, and, even if left out of the honor list, come again and again, till success finally crowns their efforts. One defeat in a show season does not always settle the question of superiority, even in the case of two competing entries. Judges differ in their tastes and preferences, and an animal may appear to disadvantage for a day or two owing to being "off its feed," and in a close contest take a lower place as the consequence. The secret of success lies in knowing and securing the approved type and

quality, commencing early the process of preparation, and showing to the best advantage. He who commences preparing only a few weeks before the fairs and allows his show stock to fight flies under a hot sun, no matter how liberally he feeds, need not wonder if he fails to win, even though his animals, under equal treatment, may be better than their rivals. The gloss and mellow handling quality of a well-groomed skin may settle the question between two nearly equal entries, and few things are more unseemly than to see a worthy animal left out of the winning largely because of the carelessness or apparent indifference of the man who shows it, or his failure to show it to advantage. For this reason, the sickly sentimentalism which deems it, in the opinion of some persons, indelicate for the owner to show his own stock in the ring, is in our judgment an absurdity. If the herdsman or attendant has not the confidence or skill to show the animals to best advantage, the owner or someone competent should take the place and show them for all they are worth. It is a poor compliment to the fitness or the honesty and fairness of a judge to imply that the presence of the person at the end of the halter may influence him in his decision in a question of merit of the animals he is called to judge, and no one should, even by implication, insinuate such a thing; and yet, who has not seen instances where it seemed as though this were in mind, and one could not but think that the groom who knew his charge best could have made a greater success of it than his self-constituted or selected substitute.

The successful exhibitor, as a rule, needs no pointers: he has noted and supplied the requirements for success, and, if wise, profits by his victories in efforts to hold the position he has gained. And the unsuccessful, if wise, will not openly complain, but rather note the points in which he has failed, and resolve, in the spirit of determination, to remedy these if they have been due to faults or mistakes of his own, and will try again and again till he reaches the goal of his ambition—the winning post. The proper spirit of showing is to wear one's honors modestly, not in boasting or bragging when successful, and when unsuccessful not to complain unduly, but to resolve to persevere and set himself to equal or surpass his strongest opponents.

IMMIGRATION AND THE LABOR PROBLEM.

Those who have followed the series of editorial utterances in this paper on the two important subjects of education and the labor problem, are convinced, we hope, that the main root of the labor difficulty lies in the defective nature of our public-school education, which has not tended, as it should, to train either good laborers or progressive employers, but, instead, has tended in a marked degree to overcrowd the professions, and especially to deplete the ranks of farmers and laborers, leaving nobody in these classes who could be educated away from them. Meanwhile the country has been crying out loudly for farmers and laborers, and seeking by an active immigration policy to secure workers from abroad. Indeed, if some of the captains of commerce and industry had their way we would soon have the country filled with a pauper class of ignorant foreigners, content to toil for a pittance, like the Asiatics who have lately been induced to pour into British Columbia. As soon as they arrived, our educationists, with laudable zeal, would take hold of the children of these people, where they have any, and educate them away from the factory and farm, just as had previously been done with the native-born population. Then more Europeans and Asiatics would be sought, and the

process repeated and repeated until an overwhelming majority of our population was composed of the scions of alien races. It is true that Canada's special efforts to secure immigrants are now being put forward in the United Kingdom, Northern Europe and the United States, but it is also true that the people we desire to secure from these sources are the very ones those countries are the most reluctant to spare. In fact, in the course of an address at Toronto lately, the leader of the British Socialist Labor Party, Mr. Keir Hardy, M. P., protested against our immigration propaganda in the Old Land. Even could we obtain a good average of their surplus, what Canadian would be willing to admit that they are, as an average, equal to the average Canadian-born, to say nothing at all of disparity in customs, and, in some cases, of language as well.

No, the problem of Canada is not how to induce the surplus population of the Old World to come and toil for us, but how to provide remunerative and congenial employment for our own people at home, and then so to educate the children as to incline them towards and fit them for the occupations the country affords. The extensive importation of inferior races, or even the lower classes of our parent races, cannot but tend to keep down our standard of citizenship. Do we covet the prospect? Are we willing to become, like the United States, a nation rich to the limits of materialism, but comprising in its population vast hordes of vulgar foreigners, and facing race problems like the one in the South, defying satisfactory solution? Is that the best picture that prophets can hold up for us to enthuse over? Perish the thought.

Numbers of people, size of cities, vastness of trade, do not constitute national greatness; it is the quality and character of the average citizen that counts. Let us maintain and raise ever higher the standard of Canadian citizenship. This does not imply that we should wrap ourselves up in a white mantle of superior virtue and close the door to all would-be immigrants. On the contrary, thrifty immigrants, of good character, mentality and physique, are welcomed among us, and should always be. The gradual immigration of free, industrious people, who will make the country into which they pass their home, commonly proves a benefit. There is such a thing as a nation becoming too exclusive, narrow and priggish in its attitude toward other nations and their representatives, thus provoking international reprisals. Let us not be guilty of that. But there is an essential difference between holding out the glad hand of fellowship to worthy immigrants who come to us of their own free will, and going after them with a view to securing a supply of cheap and servile labor for our industries.

The Transvaal Government, by deciding upon the expulsion of the horde of Chinese coolies imported to work the mines, is a case in point. Greed prompted their importation, in the train of which followed a terrible catalogue of evils, and probably would have held them there longer than it did but for the passionate protest of the British people at the last election in Great Britain, which aided in levelling up South African opinion to the standard of civilization in the British Isles, in its deep-seated devotion to liberty and repugnance to servile labor. We take it to be the inalienable right of Canada to determine the pace, as well as the conditions, upon which immigration shall proceed, so that the future character of our population shall not be imperilled—a more vital consideration than the speed with which our railways are constructed.

Cheap labor looks tempting to the individual railroad contractor, mill-owner or farmer, but in