

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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THE DOMINION.

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not the choice of the London judge for even that position. This is only one instance of a number of reversals of the placing of animals in the various classes at the three principal Ontario shows this year, which are, to say the least, confusing to those who look to the judges for a standard to go by, and it does seem reasonable to expect that competent judges should come more nearly to agreeing on the relative placing of the animals in competition on the basis of merit. Of course, in some instances one animal may go off in condition in the interim between fairs and show to less advantage on its second or third appearance, but this contingency did not apply in the case we have cited. While we have no hesitation in stating our own preference, as a result of experience and observation, for the single-judge system, we have no quarrel with those who prefer to trust to two rather than to one, with the evident expectation that they will agree, but with provision for a referee if they differ. The difficulty in the latter case seems to be that some men lack the courage to disagree, and that compromises are sometimes made which do not reflect the real judgment of at least one of the twain, who may be the better judge and the freer from bias. As an alternative expedient to those who are timid of trusting all to one man who may not prove to be as strong and steady of nerve as is thought desirable, we commend for consideration the practice which we in this has been adopted at one or more of the State fairs over the line, of giving the single judge, if he comes to a hard place where he cannot fully satisfy himself, the privilege of calling in for consultation a brother from the company of onlookers in whose judgment he has confidence. It may be objected that the judge may be unfortunate in the selection of a brother, when the reply is ready to hand, the great advantage is that he fails to agree, and thereby disposes the judges to be influenced by those less than a competent official.

is the single judge who has been entrusted with the work and who knows he will be held personally accountable for its prosecution, and cannot shift the responsibility, since he must either have concurred with his chosen colleague or acted on his own judgment alone after the conference. One thing which appears to us important to be kept in view, both in the appointment of judges and in the actual work of judging, is to aim at the encouragement of a uniform type in each breed or class, having due regard, of course, to constitutional vigor and usefulness, and to suitability to the demands of our best markets. With these things in view, the work of the judges should show as much uniformity and consistency in rating as the character of the material brought before them will admit.

The suggestion that judges be required to give reasons for their rating of the prize animals, while it may in theory seem reasonable, is scarcely practicable on a large scale, since it would take up endless time, and, besides, many of the best judges would shrink from the ordeal of a public address, for which they have had no training, and the tendency would be to bring in talkative theorists having hobbies and fads to bolster up, and that class can invariably frame a plausible reason for their work, even if it be wide of the standard approved by well-informed and up-to-date, practical men. The almost universal failure of the score-card system to give satisfaction in the public judging ring, when on trial, well confirms our contention in this regard.

Improvement in Fair Management.

[FROM OUR EASTERN EDITION.]

SIR,—I have read and re-read your most commendable and well-written editorial article in Sept. 15th issue, "After the Exhibition," and while I heartily endorse it in the main, still I quite realize the great strain agricultural fair boards are making in order to run their concerns to a financial success, oftentimes accepting money from shady men managing side shows of questionable character, which I do not in any way justify, but rather excuse, because directors are not exercising that careful selection of these that they should. Should an objectionable side show creep in, it should be promptly excluded from the grounds, and it is the duty of the local police in the corporation where the show is held to enforce the law against any gambling devices or games of chance. It is all very well to hold up the Royal Society of England as a model, but we have not arrived to the same plane as it, and we cannot hope to until the same patronage of wealthy and influential people is sympathetically bestowed, as it is in Britain. Can you explain why it is that the "select 400" of Toronto are not to be met in the hallways of the cattle and sheep buildings or at the side of the horse ring at the Industrial? Some few of these people, of course, are to be seen, but no general turnout of the elite. Is it for the reason that we have no "county" folk to set the example—to show that it is the correct thing to give commendation and encouragement to the successful breeders and feeders of prize animals? Speaking (or, rather, writing, in this case) generally, the manufacturing interests were not represented this year, and it looked to me as if the gulf between urban and rural people were widening. Now, if you abolish a certain class of catchy grand-stand performances, as well as the side shows, where is the money to come from to pay prizes? Gate receipts and entry fees will not do it, by a long way. Candidly, I believe that exhibitors of stock, etc., do not pay entry fees in proportion to the prizes for which they compete, probably not over one-quarter of that a man would require to stake to enter a horse in a race.

It would be a distinct gain to many boards, preserving them from falling into ruts, were steps taken to secure the presence upon them from time to time of new men, whose character and capacity would infuse the exhibitions under their charge with a spirit of progress and improvement. I might say still more in regard to this matter, but this is enough to show where I stand. I shall be glad to see you hammer away and set the brains of directors to work to devise improvements in the management of fairs regarding industrial features and in affording opportunities for viewing live stock.

AGRICULTURE AND ARTS.

Thanksgiving Day.

The Dominion Government has fixed Thursday, Nov. 27th, as a day of national thanksgiving throughout Canada.

Favors the General Purpose Stallion.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

I notice, in your issue of Sept. 5th, that your representative at the Regina Fair gives another friendly hit at our Society for giving prizes to general purpose stallions. It is to be admitted that the use of a general purpose stallion with mares of any weight, say over 1,350 lbs., is a mistake: for in breeding horses for farm work we generally look for an increase in weight, however slight, coupled with a constitution better than either sire or dam possesses singly. But when we come to the breeding of mares of say 1,000 lbs. to \$1,200 lbs. and over, then the question arises, is it advisable to use your 1,800 or 1,900 lbs. registered stallion? The result of such use is often a nondescript colt, with Clydy legs and a body out of all proportion, an ungainly brute; in fact, almost unsalable. This is where the usefulness of the general purpose stallion comes in. Bred to mares of the last-mentioned weights, you get, as it were, a step up the ladder of improvement—a clean-limbed colt with a body to match, fit for the farm work this mating was intended to produce. This colt will be, then, a decided increase on the weight of the dam, and this is the colt that by gradual improvement (in weight, size and shape) is fit to be bred to the registered stallion when it is old enough.

1. It may be said, on behalf of the non-use of the G. P. stallion, that he may be unsound. Are not registered stallions and mares also found which are unsound? 2. It is claimed that the G. P. stallion may "throw back," and perpetuate the poor qualities of his ancestors. Not if intelligent selection has been made in regard to the parentage of such a horse.

Probably these are the views of many of the directors of the Regina Agricultural Association, and as long as there are such general purpose horses as gained first prize at the Spring Stallion and former shows, the Society need not be ashamed of giving prizes for such. Now, sir, it would be deeply interesting, as well as profitable, to see this subject discussed in your progressive paper.

Cottonwood. DIRECTOR.

The Northern Elevator Co. is adding a drying plant to their cleaning elevators at Emerson.

The Place of Dairying in the Evolution of Agriculture.

BY J. M'CAIG, ONTARIO.

It is not less true of agriculture than of other arts, that the story of its progress is the record of simple products succeeded by complex products, as well as of division and specialization of labor in the making of products. The comparative newness of our country, together with the comparative perfection in agricultural and other arts to which it has so suddenly attained, affords opportunities even within the life of the individual man to observe what the nature of agricultural development has been, for it is doubtless true that in many cases the same men have cleared the land that are now making application of the best and highest intelligence to the special arts of the breeding of choice stock or the making of butter. It is quite plain that the earliest and most primitive and elemental phase of agriculture is the raising of grain. The problem of the pioneer is bread. His earliest enterprise, in a wooded area at least, is the exchange of labor for land by cutting down the forests, the use of which land is the growing of wheat and other grains. In prairie countries the order is the same, for the kind of agricultural operation requiring the least demand of capital from the pioneer is the stirring of the virgin soil. It likewise yields the readiest and largest return for the labor invested. This operation is comparatively simple.

But "Man shall not live by bread alone." This is good philosophy even in a material sense. Apart from its use in conserving soil fertility, stock-raising following on grain-growing is a natural and orderly phase of development, as it represents the progress from simple to complex in product making, for whereas in the grain-growing phase grain is an ultimate product, in stock-raising it is only an intermediate and instrumental one, for instead of selling grain as grain, it is sold as beef or mutton or pork. The production of beef, then, to the best advantage evidently requires greater knowledge and versatility than the production of grain alone. In the early stages of the cattle business we find the cow doing duty not as a producer of beef alone, but as a producer of milk. This is not to say that in the present some cows produce beef only and others milk only. We cannot by any art get rid of the integrity or completeness of the cow kind. Every cow carries flesh, and is to a greater or less degree a milk-making machine. It is nevertheless true that the early cow has a general purpose character that is to a great extent lost through the operation of the principle of selection to single, special, definite, economic ends in later times. In primitive conditions cattle yield butter, beef, or draw the plow; in modern times they do not draw